



The Communicator July 2005

www.ams.usda.gov/nmna



Photo use by permission Stone Mountain Park

Welcome to Atlanta !

The 48th annual NMNA conference is upon us. This year's site is Atlanta, Georgia known as the Big City with lots of Southern Hospitality. From arts to sightseeing with shopping and dining in between Atlanta is the place to be! Now is the time to send in your NMNA registration and payment by either online, mail or fax, plus reserve a room at the Crowne Plaza Hotel by the August 5th deadline. The Crowne Plaza Atlanta Perimeter NW is ideally located between two of the south's principal shopping and commercial areas known as the Galleria and Perimeter Centers. It is situated in one of Metro Atlanta's most upscale Northside communities with a variety of dining options in the vicinity including some of the best waterside dining available in the city. Other sites in the area include Cumberland, Galleria and Perimeter malls and the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area; as well as Stone Mountain Park, Underground Atlanta and the World of Coca Cola to mention a few, all just a shuttle drive away.

Details and Exciting Activities:

Upon arrival please remember to check in at the registration desk. That same evening there will be a Welcome reception complete with appetizers and drinks. On Friday, we have planned a busy general session agenda. This will be followed by Friday afternoon and Saturday commodity workshops. Friday evening you'll enjoy fine southern hospitality from the water surrounding Stone Mountain Park as we board a southern style riverboat for an exciting dinner cruise and cash bar. Then we'll all be treated to a viewing of the world famous Stone Mountain Laser Show which is displayed on and above the face of the largest exposed granite mountain in the world. Saturday evening is the Awards Banquet and we'll celebrate with a sit-down dinner and some home style southern cooking, with the live scholarship auction to follow.

Hotel Reservations:

Crowne Plaza Atlanta Perimeter NW

6345 Powers Ferry Road, N.W
Atlanta, Georgia 30339

Call 770-955-1700 - Hotel Direct

*** Remember Reservation Deadline: August 5, 2005 ***

Room rates are \$109.00 plus tax for a single person or double person room. Identify yourself as a member of the National Market News Association. Room rates are good for 6 days before and after group arrival and departure based on availability. Reservations at the per diem rate cannot be guaranteed after the reservation deadline so make your reservations prior to August 5th. Reservations can be cancelled without charge 72 hours prior to arrival. Also, if for some reason you are checking out of the hotel earlier than intended than indicated on your initial reservation, please let the hotel know at check in; otherwise, they will charge you an early departure fee.

Spouses and guests must be registered in order to participate in the spouse program activities listed on the registration form.

NMNA CONFERENCE REGISTRATION:

Deadline: August 5, 2005

The registration form is included in this issue. You can register by mail, fax or on-line. The Registration fee is \$140.00 for members, spouse and guest fees are \$80.00 and membership dues are \$7.00. You can make a scholarship donation at this time as well or wait for the auction.

E-registration: <http://www.ams.usda.gov/nmna>

Fax to: 404-657-7529

Mail to: Donald Carnes, NMNA
State of Georgia Department of Agriculture
Poultry Market News
19 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive – Room 134
Atlanta Georgia 30334-4201

**Remember to mail your payment separately if you are e-mailing or faxing your registration.

**Indicate on the registration form in the comment section whether you plan to participate in the Friday evening Stone Mountain dinner cruise and Laser Show and whether your spouse or guest is attending.

Notice: For those of you who attempted to e-register during the period April 24th – June 29th, the NMNA registration process was experiencing technical difficulties. If you were one of these folks, please re-submit your registration or fax your printed copy to 404-657-7529. Even though you received a confirmation notice, we did not receive the registration during that time. Sorry for the inconvenience.

TRANSPORTATION:

AIRPORT SHUTTLE SERVICE – ‘AIRPORT PERIMETER CONNECTION’

Call 1-800-761-7751 or local 404-761-0260 On-line at www.2apc.com,

The Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport is located south of Atlanta and our hotel is located on the north side of town. The NMNA rate per individual is a heavily discounted \$17.00 each way which must be paid by the traveler. It is VERY IMPORTANT that you make reservations prior to arrival and advise the shuttle service of your airline information and when your flight is expected to arrive; and remember to make return reservations at least 24 hours prior to your departure date and time. It would be best if you make arrangements for arrival and departure (round trip shuttle) at the same time.

Once you arrive and pick up your bags please follow the signs to 'Ground Transportation' and go to 'Area F'. Look for Airport Perimeter Connection at 'F8'. A pre-arrival reservation does not mean a van will be immediately waiting for you upon arrival; however, it does allow you to make your pre-paid ground transfer travel arrangements from and to the airport before you get to Atlanta. When you make your reservation online advise them your 'Zone' location is to the Crowne Plaza Atlanta Perimeter NW, and include info under the 'Special Instructions' that you are with the NMNA - National Market News Association. Have your return flight information available so the agent can make your return reservation for you. Keep in mind for your return home the shuttle must pick you up at least 3 hours prior to airport departure time in order to have you at the airport in time for check in and security. The Airport Perimeter Connection normally runs from 7am till 11:30pm.

MARTA – RAPID RAIL SERVICE - ATLANTA AIRPORT

Transportation to the Perimeter MARTA station is available from the Atlanta Airport - South Terminal station. You should exit the train at the Perimeter Marta Station where shuttle pickup is available to the Crowne Plaza Atlanta Perimeter NW every hour between 3:00pm and 9:00pm on the day of arrival. On the day of departure, shuttle service will be available to drop you off at the Perimeter Marta Station for your ride back to the Atlanta Airport at 9:00am, 10:00am, 12:00pm, 2:00pm and 7:00pm. These services are available on a first come – first serve basis. MARTA fare cost is \$1.75 per person each way.

DRIVING DIRECTIONS

From Tennessee:

I-75 South to Atlanta to I-285 East. Exit #22 (Powers Ferry Road). Bear right off the exit; hotel is on the left.

From South Carolina:

I-20 West to Atlanta. Take I-75/85 North to I-75 North toward Marietta. Continue I-75 North to I-285 East. Exit #22 (Powers ferry Road). Bear right off the exit; hotel is on the left.

From North Carolina:

I-85 South to I-285 West to exit #22 (Powers Ferry Road). Go straight through one light and turn left at the second light. Hotel is on the left.

From Alabama:

I-20 East toward Atlanta to I-285 North to exit #22 (Powers Ferry Road). Bear right off the exit; hotel is on the left.

From Atlanta Airport (ATL):

Take I-75/85 North through Atlanta to I-75 North toward Marietta. Then I-285 East to exit #22 (Powers Ferry Road). Bear right off the exit; hotel is on the left.

PARKING INFORMATION

Parking is complimentary in the Crowne Plaza Atlanta Perimeter NW parking lot adjacent to the hotel.

Scholarship Fundraiser – Silent and Live Auctions!

We will have a silent auction on Friday and a live auction on Saturday evening with Livestock Market News, Thomasville, Georgia handling the auction this year, raising money for the scholarship fund. It is always a lot of fun so bring your checkbooks along and make it worthwhile. We are looking for donations from members to support this worthy cause and help an Agriculture student in need. Please think about an item you could contribute and mail it to Donald Carnes. If you want to bring the item with you, e-mail or call Nell Moncus (nmoncus@agr.state.ga.us or call 404-656-3656) and let her know so your item and the donors name can be included on the auction item list by August 12th . We've had great items in the past, and I'm sure you all can think of some really good items!

NMNA Award Nominations! – Deadline: August 5, 2005

If you haven't already done so, be sure to submit your nominations for our NMNA awards. We have a lot of outstanding Reporters in our membership and this is your chance to nominate them for recognition. The nomination forms are on the NMNA website in the Award section. Complete the application, click submit, and receive an e-mailed confirmation. It's that simple. If you have questions, contact Debbie Friday, Awards Committee Chairman.

Member - Spouse and Guest Activities

Exciting Events to Anticipate:

We welcome you on Thursday evening to Atlanta with an appetizer reception. The general session begins Friday followed by the break out sessions. The NMNA business meeting is Saturday morning followed by educational and informative conference meetings during the day.

On Friday the spouses and guests will depart our hotel for city touring which will include the World of Coca-Cola museum and demonstrations of how the Cola is made. Then a visit to historic Underground Atlanta follows with lunch, shopping and Georgia history. Later a tour of the world famous CNN Center (Cable News Network) will enlighten the mind; while an afternoon visit to Centennial Olympic Park, the center point of the recent Summer Olympic Games, will stimulate your senses at the conclusion of the day.

The evening will then commence for all with a bus tour to Georgia's Historic Stone Mountain Park where fun and excitement await. The afternoon and evening will be full of fun, shopping, strolling and sightseeing at every turn. This will include dinner on the Henry W. Grady river boat and a memorable Laser Show event.

Saturday activities for spouses and guests will include a memorable day of shopping, touring and dining at three of our premier upscale malls - Perimeter Center, Cumberland Mall and the Cobb Galleria Center. You will be back in plenty of time for the Awards Banquet that evening.

NMNA OFFICERS

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MARKET NEWS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION (MNAA)

Update:

Market News Alumni Association Conference Schedule:

Business meeting will be held on Friday morning 11:00 am

Sponsored lunch for members and spouses will be held following the morning meeting.

All other activities will be scheduled with the rest of the NMNA group so that everyone will have the chance to catch up with all the latest from Market News.

For those of you that are interested, Livestock and Grain Market News will be holding a livestock correlation before the conference so you may want to make plans to attend. If you are interested in attending the correlation, contact Terry Harris at terry.harris@usda.gov.

Don't forget, we are actively seeking new members among our Market News retirees, so if you know of someone that has not been contacted, please let us know (email - sjhall@tds.net).

Charter membership dues are \$25.00 and should be sent to Bill Fulton; 101 Secluded Circle; Little Rock, Arkansas 72210.

REMINDER!!

Dues should be sent to Bill Fulton, 101 Secluded Circle, Little Rock, Arkansas 72210

President – Weldon Hall

Vice-President – Charlie Hackensmith

Secretary/Treasurer – Bill Fulton

Membership Committee: James McCallister, Mike Erwin, Paul Fuller.

New Employee: Welcome Tony McLamb with Poultry Market News in North Carolina. He recently joined the staff July 6th.

National Market News Association 48th Annual Workshop

September 8 - 10, 2005, Atlanta, Georgia

Thursday, September 8

4:00 - 10:00 pm	Registration, Berkshire Foyer
6:00 - 7:00	Executive Board Meeting
7:00 - 8:00	Welcome Reception, Indoor Pool Area
9:00 - 12:00	Hospitality Suite

Friday, September 9 – General Session

7:00 - 8:30 am	Registration, Berkshire Foyer
7:00 - 8:00	Continental Breakfast, Berkshire Foyer
8:00 - 8:10	Donald Carnes, President, Opening Remarks
8:10 - 8:30	Welcome to Georgia: Tommy Irvin, Georgia Commissioner of Agriculture
8:30 - 8:50	Introductions: Debbie Friday, First Vice-President
8:50-9:20	Lloyd Day, Administrator AMS, USDA
	Abit Massey, Georgia Poultry Federation
9:20 – 9:40	Introductions: Tina Colby, Second Vice-President
	Dr. Lee Myers, Georgia State Veterinarian – Assistant Commissioner Homeland Security
9:40 – 10:00	Terry Long, Fruit and Vegetable Market News 90 th Anniversary of Market News
10:00 – 10:15	Break
10:15 – 11:05	Introduction: Linda Verstrate, Third Vice-President
11:05 - 11:25	Fred Teensma, Fruit and Vegetable Market News – F&V Portal Update
11:25 - 12:00 pm	Mexico Update
	Terry Long, Fruit and Vegetable Market News
	Update on the Market Information Organization of the Americas
12:00 - 1:00	Lunch on Your Own
1:00 - 4:00	Commodity Breakout Sessions
	Fruit & Vegetable - Canterbury
	Livestock & Grain - Berkshire Ballroom
	Poultry – Surrey
	Cotton – Churchill
1:00 - 3:00	Market News Alumni Association Meeting & Group Photo, Windsor
6:00	Buses Leave for Stone Mountain Park
7:00 - 9:00	Henry W. Grady River Boat Dinner Cruise, Scholarship Silent Auction
9:30 - 10:15	Stone Mountain Laser Show
11:00 - 12:00	Hospitality Suite

Saturday, September 10

7:00 - 8:00 am	Late Registration, Berkshire
7:00 - 8:00	Continental Breakfast, Berkshire Foyer
7:30 - 8:00	NMNA Business Meeting, Berkshire Ballroom
8:00 - 8:30	Branch Photographs
	FV, LV, PY, CO Spouses / Guests
8:30 - 4:00 pm	Commodity Break Out Sessions
	Fruit & Vegetable – Canterbury
	Livestock & Grain – Manchester Ballroom
	Poultry – Surrey
	Cotton - Churchill
5:00 - 6:00	Social Hour, Berkshire Foyer
6:00 - 9:00	NMNA Awards Banquet and Benefit Auction, Berkshire Ballroom
9:00 - 12:00	Hospitality Suite

Fruit & Vegetable Breakout Session

Friday, September 9

1:00 - 2:30 pm Fruit and Vegetable Commodity Breakout Session
2:30 - 2:45 Break
2:45 - 5:00 Fruit and Vegetable Commodity Breakout Session

Saturday, September 10

7:30 - 8:00 am NMNA Business Meeting
8:00 Group Photo, Canterbury
8:10 - 9:20 Fruit and Vegetable Commodity Breakout Session
9:20 - 9:40 Break
9:40 - 11:30 Fruit and Vegetable Commodity Breakout Session
11:30 - 1:00 pm Lunch on your own
1:00 - 3:00 Fruit and Vegetable Commodity Breakout Session
3:00 - 3:15 Break
3:15 - 4:30 Fruit and Vegetable Commodity Breakout Session

Livestock & Grain Breakout Session

Thursday, September 8

6:30 am Depart hotel for Athens, GA.
7:30-8:00 Continental Breakfast
8:00-12:00 noon Livestock Correlation
12:00-1:00 pm Lunch
1:00-2:00 Dr. Dean Pringle, University of GA. Pork Quality
2:00-3:00 Dr. Curt Lacy, University of GA - Beef Challenge
3:00-3:15 Break
3:00-4:00 Dr. Dwayne Johnson, University of Florida – Beef Cuts
5:00-7:00 Low - Country Boil
7:00 Depart for Atlanta

Friday, September 9

1:30-2:00 pm Introductions and State Sound-off
2:00-2:45 Dr. Williams – Mississippi State Specialty Marketing of Grass Fed Beef
2:45-3:00 Break
3:00-3:45 Mike Sands - Informa Economics - Using Market News Data
3:45-4:30 Rick Tanger – Livestock and Grain Portals
4:30 Adjourn

Saturday, September 10

7:30-8:00 am NMNA Business Meeting
8:00 Group Photo, Outdoor Pool Area
8:00-12:00 noon Dr. Warren Blank – Leadership Skills
12:00- 1:30 pm Lunch
1:30-2:00 Feeder Cattle Lap Top Programs
2:00-2:45 Committee Reports
2:45-3:00 Break
3:00-4:00 Management Discussion

Poultry and Egg Market News

Friday, September 9

1:00 - 3:00 pm	Poultry and Egg Commodity Breakout Session
2:00 - 2:15	Break
3:00 - 5:00	Poultry and Egg Commodity Breakout Session

Saturday, September 10

7:30 - 8:00 am	NMNA Business Meeting
8:00	Group Photo, Surrey
8:10 - 9:20	Poultry and Egg Commodity Breakout Session
9:20 - 9:40	Break
9:40 - 11:30	Poultry and Egg Commodity Breakout Session
11:30 - 1:00 pm	Lunch on your own
1:00 - 3:00	Poultry and Egg Commodity Breakout Session
3:00 - 3:15	Break
3:15 - 4:30	Poultry and Egg Commodity Breakout Session

Cotton Market News

Friday, September 9

1:00 - 3:00 pm	Cotton Commodity Breakout Session
2:00 - 2:15	Break
3:00 - 5:00	Cotton Commodity Breakout Session

Saturday, September 10

7:30 - 8:00 am	NMNA Business Meeting
8:00	Group Photo, Churchill
8:10 - 9:20	Cotton Commodity Breakout Session
9:20 - 9:40	Break
9:40 - 11:30	Cotton Commodity Breakout Session
11:30 - 1:00 pm	Lunch on your own
1:00 - 3:00	Cotton Commodity Breakout Session
3:00 - 3:15	Break
3:15 - 4:30	Cotton Commodity Breakout Session

Conference Spouse and Guest Agenda

Thursday, November 4

4:00 - 10:00 pm Registration, Berkshire Foyer
7:00 - 9:00 Welcome Reception, Indoor Pool Area
9:00 - 12:00 Hospitality Suite

Friday, November 5

7:00 - 8:30 am Registration
8:00 - 9:00 Continental Breakfast, Berkshire Foyer
9:00 Buses depart Hotel for city touring
10:30 - 11:30 Tour World of Coca Cola
11:30 - 2:10 pm Lunch on your own and free time at Underground Atlanta
2:10 - 3:15 Tour CNN (Cable News Network)
3:15 - 4:00 Drive thru viewing of Centennial Olympic Park
4:00 Buses return to Hotel
6:00 Buses Leave for Stone Mountain Park
7:00 - 9:00 Henry W. Grady River Boat Dinner Cruise, Scholarship Silent Auction
9:30 - 10:15 Stone Mountain Laser Show
11:00 - 12:00 Hospitality Suite

Saturday, November 6

7:00 - 8:00 am Continental Breakfast, Berkshire Foyer
8:45 Group Photo
9:30 Board bus to Cumberland Mall
10:00 - 12:00 pm Shopping
12:00 Board Bus to Galleria Mall
12:15 - 1:15 Lunch and Shopping
1:15 Board Bus to Perimeter Mall
1:30 - 3:15 Shopping
3:15 - 3:30 Board Bus back to Crowne Plaza Hotel
5:00 - 6:00 Social Hour, Berkshire Foyer
6:00 - 9:00 NMNA Awards Banquet and benefit auction, Berkshire Ballroom
9:00 - 12:00 Hospitality Suite

ATLANTA sights to visit and attractions:

Coca-Cola Museum
Atlanta Botanical Gardens
Fernbank Natural History Museum
Margaret Mitchell House
'Gone With The Wind'
Underground Atlanta
Martin Luther King Jr. Center
High Museum of Art
Atlanta History Center
'Historic Swan House'

Six Flags Over Georgia
Cyclorama
'Civil War History - Battle of Atlanta'
Virginia Highlands
'Unique shops and dining'
Zoo Atlanta
Jimmy Carter Presidential Library
'Emory University'
Six Flags White Water Park

Please return registration form and payment to:

Donald Carnes
Georgia Department of Agriculture
Poultry Market News
19 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive SW – Room #134
Atlanta, Georgia 30334-4201

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